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Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Bill Davis, Simi Valley

MEETING OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Thursday, June 10, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SCAG Offices

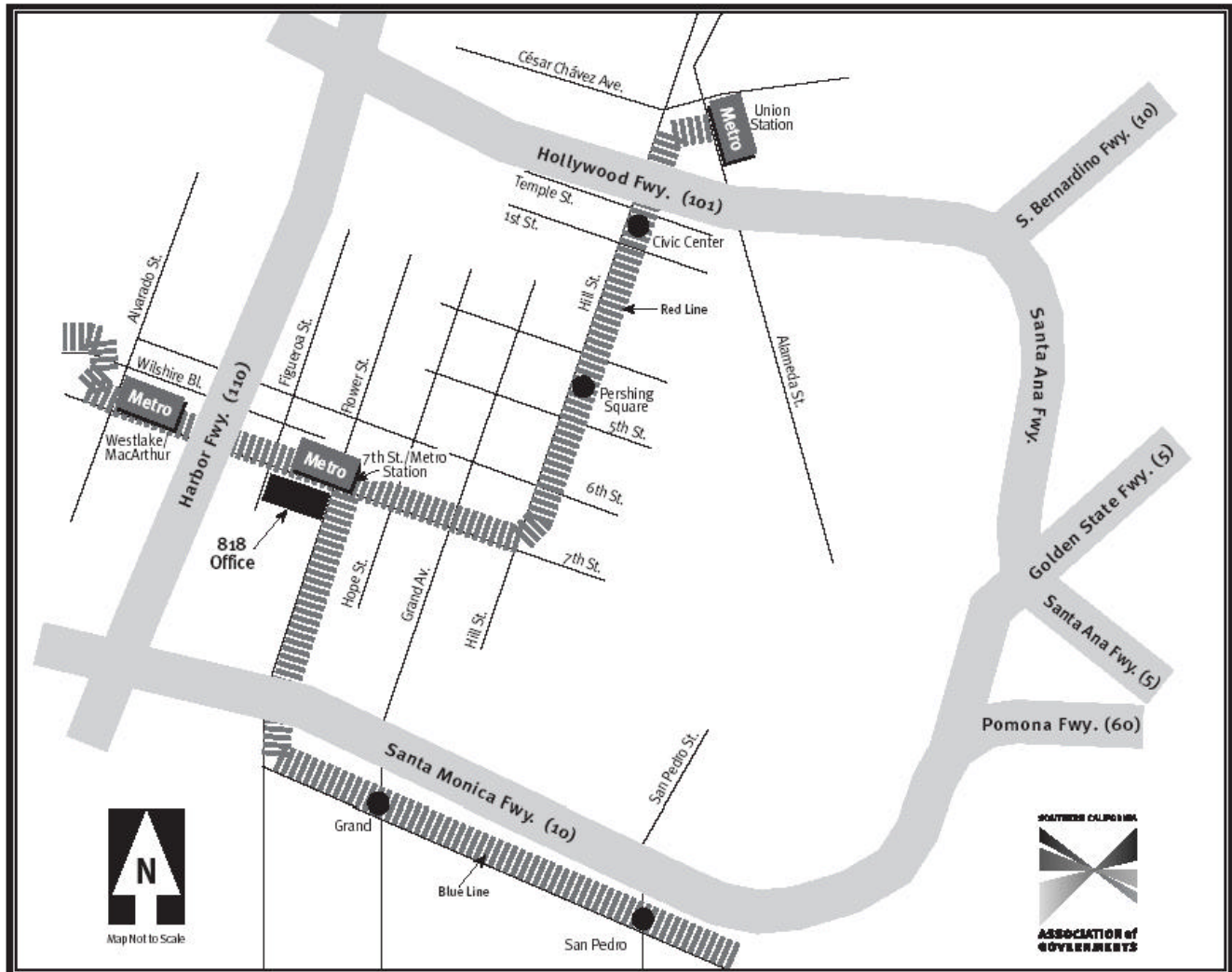
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Los Angeles, California 90017
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Agenda & Map Enclosed

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Grisct at 213.236.1895 or grisct@scag.ca.gov.

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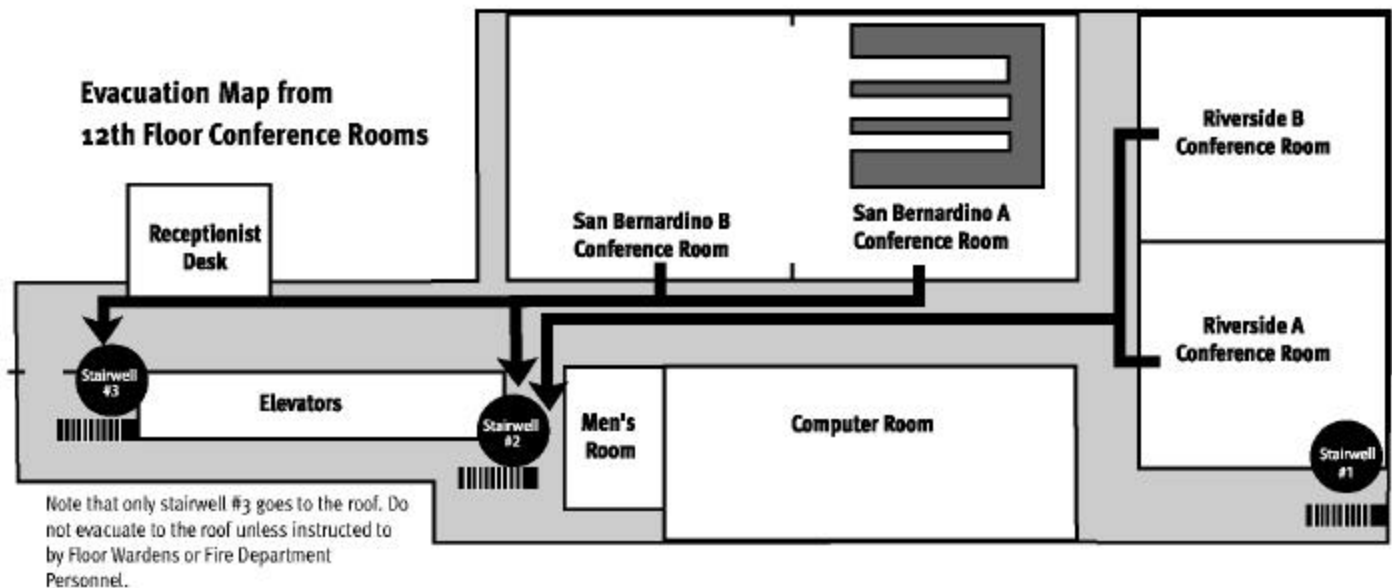
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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**

AGENDA
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

June 10, 2004

10:00 a.m.

SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room

Page #

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or agenda items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must notify the Secretary and fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6

Approve the minutes of the April 8, 2004 meeting.

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 An Update on SAWPA's Integrated Watershed Plan and Water Reclamation and Reuse in the Santa Ana River Watershed

9

Joe Grindstaff, General Manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), will brief the Task Force on water quality and supply initiatives in the Santa Ana River Watershed. SAWPA's Integrated Watershed Plan paved the way for \$235 million in state bond funding when voters statewide approved Proposition 13. This success began the first efforts to implement measures that will drought-proof the watershed. These measures include installation of desalters that reclaim groundwater for reuse in the watershed.

4.2 Orange County's Ground Water Replenishment System

12

John Kennedy, Assistant General Manager of the Orange County Water District (OCWD), presents a status report on the Groundwater Replenishment System (GRS). This project is jointly funded by OCWD and the Orange County Sanitation Districts (OCSA) and will ultimately treat and reuse up to 140,000 acre feet of local wastewater. This reclaimed water will be recycled to prevent seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin and to recharge water supplies stored in the groundwater basin.

4.3 Water Recycling and Reuse Issues: Action Levels Legislation, Impediments in Water Regulation 14

Uzi Daniels, Environmental Quality Analyst at West Central Municipal Water District, and Martha Davis, Executive Manager for Policy Development at Inland Empire Utilities Agency, will present related facets of an emerging challenge to water recycling efforts in southern California. This challenge is the result of a new regulatory approach advanced by the Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board that effectively limits water recycling initiatives in the Los Angeles Basin and potentially elsewhere. Proposed legislation that has been developed in response to this threat will be reviewed.

4.4 West Nile Virus Update 16

Stephanie Miladin, representing the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, will discuss the West Nile Virus situation, including prospects for control, prevention and treatment.

4.5 Report Submitted to Caltrans Storm Water Program 17

Staff will brief the Task Force on a report recently submitted by SCAG to the Storm Water Program at Caltrans. The report presented the relationship between hydrologic areas (subwatershed boundaries) and local jurisdictions subject to watershed management and water quality obligations.

5.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Minutes
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

April 8, 2004
10:00 a.m.
SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room

Call To Order

Chair Washburn called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked members of the Task Force and other attendees to introduce themselves.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 12, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentation Items for the Task Force

4.1 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Scott Valor, Director of Government Affairs of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (formerly known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project), discussed the history and state of the Santa Monica Watershed and the state situation with bond funding for watershed projects. The Commission is a non-regulatory state entity with a diverse governing board and a consensus approach to decision making about projects related to the Santa Monica Bay. A key water quality issue for the Bay is urban and stormwater runoff diversion and pollution prevention. Key goals for the Commission include public health and marine habitat restoration. Public education is an important activity that supports other projects. The Commission will be interested in channeling funds into projects with local agencies, looking for partnership approaches.

4.2 Update on State Programs for Funding of Watershed Projects

Rick Harter, Executive Director of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, discussed (along with a Council staff member, Suzanne Dallman) the current status of programs created by voter-approved propositions (Propositions 12, 13, 40 and 50) that authorized issuance of over \$10 billion in state bonds to fund watershed and other environmentally-related projects. Much of this funding is competitively allocated by the State Water Resources Control Board within certain functional and geographic categories. A topic of interest is Chapter 8 in Proposition 50, referring to Integrated Watershed Management and involving decisions by both the State Board and the Department of Water Resources. Guidelines and criteria

remain uncertain and sometimes confusing. A key limitation is the shortage of state staff personnel to process applications. Unknowns about the state budget prospects are affecting funding expectations. Harter urged agencies to get comments about program guidelines into the state as quickly as possible, to pursue both state and other funding (e.g., National Science Foundation grants). Attention needs to be given by the Task Force to the larger, long-term need for watershed planning and management resources. A motion was made and approved without objection that urged staff to continue the pursuit of funding for projects that support integrated watershed management.

4.3 Water 2025: A Report of the US Interior Department on Water Crisis and Conflict in the West

William Steele, Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, discussed the findings and recommendations of a report focused on water issues in the West. The mix of principles (*protecting water rights, maintaining/modernizing existing facilities, enhancing water conservation, collaborating for solutions, improving water technologies with research, improving efficiencies of water infrastructure*), realities (*explosive population growth in arid areas, water shortages exist, water shortages result in conflicts, aging western infrastructure limits options, and crisis management is ineffective in water conflicts*) and tools (*conservation, efficiency, and markets, collaboration, improved technology and removal of barriers and increase of interagency coordination*) presented in the report were developed for two reasons: to help avoid future water conflicts and to facilitate increased water supplies in arid landscapes that are experiencing rapid population growth. He noted that the Bay Delta and southern California are areas at high risk for future water conflict. The report was initially prompted by the recent water crisis in the Klamath Basin, along with conflicting biological opinions at either end of the river and conflicting Indian tribal claims. The drivers of future water supply crises are considered to be competing claims of water quality, endangered species, native Americans and population growth. Water trends in the Colorado River are unfavorable, with annual flows available for allocation among the Basin states declining from 18 million acre feet (maf) to 15 maf over the last 100 years. Mr. Steele noted that projects done with the Bureau participation require non-federal match funds such as local contributions or uses of state water bond grants.

4.4 Bringing Balance to CALFED: Implementing the Delta Improvements Package

Randall Neudeck, representing Metropolitan Water District (MWD), gave the Task Force an update on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (started in 1994), as well as the recently proposed Delta Improvements Package. The Package is an important set of proposed actions that aim to bring CALFED implementation measures into better balance among environmental, agricultural and urban interests. This Package, sometimes referred to as the Napa Agreement, seeks to move the Program from planning activities into implementation of needed projects. These projects balance four key features: water supply reliability, water quality improvements, In-Delta protections and ecological restoration. In particular, the Package addresses four operating concerns: creating storage facilities north of the Delta, improving water quality with In-Delta infrastructure, upgrading the pumping arrangements south of the Delta for reliable and increased delivery of water for southern California and getting greater coordination between the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project operated by the federal government. MWD believes that these balanced Bay-Delta proposals will bring greater water reliability and institutional flexibility. Mr. Neudeck referred to proposed federal legislation that supports the Package proposal and state legislation (S.B. 1155) that potentially blocks the Package. The Task Force adopted the staff recommendation without any objection: the Task Force

recommends to the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) and the Regional Council that SCAG support the full and timely implementation of the 2004 Delta Improvements Package and urge all participating agencies, including the federal government, to authorize and fund the measures required to maintain operational balance in the CALFED program. Task Force member Longville requested that the EEC be advised of legislative developments related to the Package when it is presented to the EEC.

5.0 Chair's Report

Chair indicated that the next meeting would be June 10, 2004.

6.0 Staff Report

Dan Griset noted that staff was preparing selected reports for the Caltrans Storm Water Program in which water quality issues and proposed projects in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan were being studied. Also, staff will be updating over the next year the two water chapters in the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide.

7.0 Task Force Information Sharing

There was no information sharing.

8.0 Comment Period

There were no comments.

9.0 Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Elected Members: Dennis Washburn (Chair), Harry Baldwin, Glen Becerra, Lou Bone, Margaret Clark, Debbie Cook, Norman Eckenrode, Larry Forester, Susan Longville, Keith McCarthy, Michael Miller, Sheena Moqet, Lori Van Arsdale, Toni Young

Liaison Members: Bo Cutter, Anthony Fellow, Gerald Green, Adel Hagekhalil, Rick Harter, Larry McKenney, Heather Merenda, Bill Steele, Paul Thakur

Minutes prepared and approved by Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner and Staff to the Task Force

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

June 10, 2004

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *An Update on SAWPA's Integrated Watershed Plan and Water Reclamation and Reuse in the Santa Ana River Watershed*

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of five water agencies: Eastern Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Orange County Water District. As a JPA, SAWPA operates as a special district under California law.

SAWPA developed an integrated watershed plan that became a key element of Proposition 13, the statewide water bond measure approved by voters in 2000. This resulted in \$235 million of funding for water quality and supply projects in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Implementation of these projects, as well as future projects, will drought-proof the Watershed by reclaiming and reusing groundwater and reducing the need for water imports.

Member Agency Profile Information

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) headquarters is located in Perris, CA and serves the eastern portion of the watershed in Riverside County, as well as portions of the Santa Margarita Watershed, south of the Santa Ana. In the face of declining groundwater levels and continuing droughts, it was formed in 1950 to secure additional water for a lightly populated area of western Riverside County. EMWD joined the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California a year later to augment its local supplies with recently available imported water. The District also provides sewer service throughout its area. EMWD has a 555-square mile service area that hosts a population of about 395,000. Major communities include Moreno Valley, Hemet, San Jacinto, Perris, Sun City, Menifee, Winchester, Temecula, Murrieta and Murrieta Hot Springs. In addition to its some 73,000 retail customers, EMWD wholesales water through seven local water agencies. Without easy access to an ocean outfall for effluent, EMWD developed into one of the state's largest reclaimed water providers, having a combined capacity from five sewage treatment plants of more than 43 million gallons a day. Reclaimed water has become extremely important in managing local water

resources and helps to extend the economic viability of agriculture, the region's largest industry. In recent years, reclaimed water has become increasingly accepted for irrigation and landscaping.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is headquartered in Chino, near Prado Dam. It serves rapidly growing portions of western San Bernardino County. Founded originally as Chino Basin Municipal Water District, the Agency began operations in 1950, serving 80,000 people in a 92-square mile area. The Agency was created to bring supplemental water to its service area. Today it serves 570,000 people and in 242-square miles, including the communities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland and the Chino Agricultural Preserve. Its major responsibilities include wastewater treatment and disposal, supplemental water supply, groundwater management, industrial waste or non-reclaimable waste disposal and water conservation and reclamation. Under its Regional Sewage Service Program, the Agency operates three domestic wastewater treatment plants, allowing its communities to take advantage of shared facilities and operational efficiencies. In 1978, the court appointed the Agency's Board of Directors as Watermaster of the Chino Groundwater Basin, an entity charged with protecting the quality and quantity of the basin's groundwater. Groundwater provides about 70% of the water consumed in the service area.

Orange County Water District (OCWD) headquarters is located in Fountain Valley, CA, and serves most of the Orange County portion of the Santa Ana River Watershed. OCWD was formed in 1933 by a special act of the California State Legislature to protect Orange County's rights to water in the Santa Ana River and to provide for management of the groundwater basin. Since 1933, OCWD's management of the basin contributed to substantial increases in its annual yield of high quality drinking water. Orange County's groundwater basin supplies water to more than 20 cities and water agencies, serving more than 2.2 million Orange County residents. OCWD primarily recharges the basin with water from the Santa Ana River and to a lesser extent with imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This water recharges the groundwater basin via percolation ponds in the cities of Anaheim and Orange. The District currently holds rights to all Santa Ana River flows reaching Prado Dam. Behind Prado Dam (constructed and owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood prevention), OCWD owns 2,400 acres in Riverside County, which the District uses for water conservation, water quality improvement and environmental enhancement. The basin meets about 65-70 percent of the water demand within the District.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) is headquartered in the city of San Bernardino and serves most of the northern and eastern reaches of the Santa Ana River Watershed in San Bernardino County. SBVMWD, formed in 1954, has had the task of arranging long-term water supplies for the 600,000 residents of the San Bernardino Valley. As a state water contractor of the State Water Project, it imports northern California water into its service area. It also is charged with managing groundwater storage within its 325 square mile service area, spanning the eastern two-thirds of the San Bernardino Valley, the Crafton Hills, and a portion of the Yucaipa Valley. This area includes the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, Grand Terrace, and Yucaipa. Recently the District has entered into water supply agreements with MWD.

Western Municipal Water District (WMWD), headquartered in the city of Riverside, serves the western Riverside County portion of the Santa Ana River Watershed, as well as portions of the Santa Margarita Watershed. The District was formed in 1954 to bring supplemental water to growing western Riverside County, a 510-square mile area with a population of nearly 500,000 people. The service area includes the

communities of Jurupa, Rubidoux, Riverside, Norco, Corona, Elsinore Valley, and Rancho California. A member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the District is both a wholesaler and retailer of water. In addition to its retail water service, the District provides sewer service to 2600 customers in its service area.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

June 10, 2004

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Orange County's Ground Water Replenishment System*

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Groundwater Replenishment System (GRS) is a project jointly funded by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation Districts (OCSd). It will ultimately treat and reuse up to 140,000 acre feet of local wastewater. This reclaimed water will be recycled to prevent seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin and to recharge water supplies stored in the groundwater basin.

The System will take highly treated sewer water currently released into the ocean, direct it through one of the world's most advanced water treatment plants that includes microfiltration (MF), reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide treatment. MF is a low-pressure membrane filtration process that takes small suspended particles, bacteria and other materials out of the water. MF provides the most efficient preparation of water for reverse osmosis and is used in commercial industries to process food, fruit juices and soda beverages, in computer chip manufacturing and to sterilize medicines that cannot be heated. Reverse osmosis is a high-pressure membrane filtration process that forces water through the molecular structure of several sheets of thin plastic membranes to filter out minerals and contaminants, including salts, viruses, pesticides, and other materials. The RO membranes act as microscopic strainers, eliminating bacteria and viruses, as well as inorganic and most organic molecules from the water flow. With Ultraviolet (UV) Light and Hydrogen Peroxide Treatment the water is exposed to UV light to provide disinfection. Additionally, ultraviolet light combined with hydrogen peroxide creates an advanced oxidation reaction that eliminates any remaining compounds in water by breaking them down in harmless compounds like carbon dioxide and water. Overall, this treatment system is designed to produce ultra-pure water.

This purified water will help prevent future water shortages and be of higher quality than water sources currently used to recharge the groundwater basin used by the communities of north and central Orange County.

One of the benefits of the System is the reduced need for a new ocean outfall for the discharge of treated wastewater by OCSd. Other benefits include a reduction in reliance on imported water from northern

California and the Colorado River and drought-proofing Orange County's future. Another result of the project will be an overall improvement in quality in the basin's water by the reducing its mineral content. This will decrease maintenance costs by extending the life of water heaters, boilers, cooling towers and plumbing fixtures.

The first phase of the project will produce approximately 70,000 acre-feet of water per year beginning in 2007.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

June 10, 2004

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Water Recycling and Reuse Issues: Impediments in Water Regulation and Action Levels Legislation*

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Energy and Environment Committee and the Regional Council support A.B. 2528 and/or any other legislation that eliminates barriers to the safe reclamation and reuse of local water resources.

BACKGROUND:

When adopting water recycling requirements, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board now considers drinking water action levels (ALs) as enforceable, end-of-pipe limitations in the water recycling permits it will issue. The rationale of this approach is to protect aquifers from degradation by applying permit requirements for recycled water that differ considerably from standards for drinking water. If this blanket rationale is accepted as an appropriate direction in public policy it has the immediate potential of curtailing water recycling projects in the Los Angeles Basin and elsewhere in the SCAG region.

For this reason it is important to consider this issue and efforts underway to defuse it of its potentially crippling effects on sound water resource management in the region.

The Current Use of the Action Level: The California Health and Safety Code provides that when a drinking water well is discovered to include a contaminant in excess of a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or an AL, the public water system operator is required to notify the governing body of the local agency where the water is served to the community. MCLs are regulatory limits established after thorough scientific review, technical and economic feasibility analyses, and public comment.

In contrast, ALs are *non-regulatory levels* established by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to address *emerging* contaminants that have not yet undergone the rigorous process for establishment of MCLs. An AL is defined as the level of a chemical in drinking water that *does not* pose a significant health risk to people ingesting that water on a daily basis. It is calculated using standard risk assessment methods for non-cancer and cancer endpoints, and typical exposure assumptions, including a 2-liter per day ingestion rate, a 70-kilogram adult body weight, and a 70-year lifetime. ALs have not, however, undergone formal review for regulatory consideration. Because there are no regulatory consequences of ALs for drinking water purveyors, ALs are set very conservatively, with no consideration of attainability.

Because ALs may be monitored but are not enforceable limits, the only “action” required when an AL is exceeded is notification of the governing body for the city or county where the water is served. When DHS creates an action level it also establishes a level at which it recommends that the well be removed from service, *usually 10 to 100 times the action level*, depending on the type of hazard that the chemical poses. There is no official term for this level and the recommendation to remove a well from service is DHS policy, not in statute.

The Recycling Mandate in California: The Water Recycling Task Force recently found that California has the potential to recycle up to 1.5 maf of reclaimed water annually by the year 2030. This would free up potable water supplies to meet approximately 30 percent of the water demand associated with projected population growth. At the same time the Legislature has established a goal of recycling 1 million acre feet of water by 2010. The Legislature has declared that the people of the State have a “primary interest” in the development of recycled water facilities, and that the State should “take all possible steps” to encourage the development of such facilities in order to meet the State’s water needs. The Water Code defines recycled water not as a waste but as “water, which, as a result of treatment, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource.”

The charge of the Recycled Water Task Force was to “evaluate the current framework” of laws, regulations and permits to “identify opportunities for and obstacles or disincentives to increasing the safe use of recycled water.” The Task Force found that there are a number of permitting and regulatory practices that create disincentives to the use of recycled water. The Task Force recommended further action to address these obstacles, either legislatively or administratively.

Legislation to Remove an Obstacle to Recycling: The policy guiding the Los Angeles Regional Board’s direction on water recycling permits has cast a dark cloud over water recycling plans and has given rise to A.B. 2528, a measure that clarifies the meaning of ALs and how they are to be used in future water management.

A.B. 2528 is intended to eliminate confusion associated with the existing statutory term of AL by replacing it with clearer statutory direction for public water system operators who discover emerging contaminants in their water delivered for human consumption.

Additionally, to improve local officials’ awareness of contaminants in water delivered to the public for human consumption, the bill would require public water system operators to inform specific governing bodies within 30 days when contaminants are found to exceed maximum contaminant levels, response levels or notification levels established by the California Department of Health Services.

Note: Attached to the Agenda is the draft legislative language for A.B. 2528, as well as a discussion paper prepared by the California Section of the Water Reuse Association.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

June 10, 2004

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *West Nile Virus Update*

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

With the death of 262 people last year the spread of West Nile Virus has sparked public concern about its threat to public health and the actions needed for reducing the threat. Recently in Los Angeles County the virus has been detected in dead birds.

The Infection Process: Mosquitoes acquire the West Nile virus when they bite infected birds. The virus then spreads to humans by mosquito bites.

Most people infected with the West Nile virus don't experience symptoms. Others will experience fever, headache, and muscle weakness. A very small number of those infected develop neurological disease, which could result in death. The elderly and people with weakened immune systems are most vulnerable to the disease.

The presentation by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District's representative will cover the following topics: health risks associated with mosquitoes, mosquito biology, mosquito breeding sources, integrated mosquito management program, the history and epidemiology of the West Nile virus, the District's actions to protect the public from West Nile virus and prevention and control measures.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

June 10, 2004

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Report Submitted to the Caltrans Storm Water Program*

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

At the end of May staff prepared and submitted to the Caltrans Storm Water Program a report entitled, Integrating Hydrologic and Jurisdictional Information. This is the first in a series of reports that SCAG staff, with the technical assistance of Professor Arturo Keller of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California at Santa Barbara, will develop. The ultimate objective of this work is to combine water quality, storm water runoff and regional transportation projects into a more integrated planning process.

Note: A copy of the report will be available on the Task Force website.